

#### IV. A CASE OF DEATH BY MISADVENTURE IN THE HOUSE SWIFT (*Apus affinis*)

On 15th October 1965 in the town of Betong, changwad Yala, peninsular Thailand, I was watching House Swifts (*Apus affinis*) as they flew through and over the town, and inspecting their nests. These nests, built under the eaves of the houses along the main street in successive mounds, one on top of the other over the years, had in places become vast clusters.

Some of the fibres hung loosely from the nests, and hanging from one such fibre was a dead Swift. It was not possible to reach the bird from the ground, but from an examination through binoculars it appeared that this bird had been garroted by the loop of a hanging thread tightening around its neck as it was either sweeping up towards, or down from, a nest—more probably the latter.

A similar occurrence has been noted by BENNETT for the House Martin (*Delichon urbica*)—a paleartic species with strong resemblances in plumage and nesting habits (Cf. British Birds 55: 1962. p. 135).

*E.C.D.*

#### V. A MIXED BREEDING COLONY OF BEE-EATERS AND SAND-MARTINS

On May 21st. 1966 I took a boat for some distance down the Mekong river from Chiang Khong, changwad Chiengrai. On the way down stream I noticed some Blue-tailed Bee-eaters (*Merops philippinus*) at nest holes in the Laotian bank of the river.

Coming back up slowly against the current we passed close inshore beside them. They were feeding young and about 8–10 nest holes seemed to be in use. All round these nest holes were smaller holes in the bank and we stopped the boat to see whether these were in use. After several minutes wait one of the small Brown-throated Sand Martins (*Riparia paludicola*) entered one of these small holes.